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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/385,834	08/30/1999	JEFFREY L. C. WRIGHT	76891	9704

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WELSH & KATZ LTD
120 SOUTH RIVERSIDE PLAZA 22ND FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

QAZI, SABIHA NAIM

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1616

DATE MAILED: 11/26/2002

36

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/385,834

Applicant(s)

WRIGHT, JEFFREY L. C.

Examiner

Sabiha Naim Qazi

Art Unit

1616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1,5-11,34 and 39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1,5-11,34 and 39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/19/02 has been entered.

Claims 1, 5-11, 34 and 39 are pending.

All claims are rejected.

No claim is allowed.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

All the rejections are withdrawn because claims are amended and arguments were found persuasive during an interview on 8/1/02.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The term "comprising" cited in claim 8 is inclusive and fails to exclude unrecited steps. The use of the term comprising to introduce claimed structure means that the ingredients covered by these claims may involve more elements than those positively recited. *Ex parte Gottzein et al.*, 168 USPQ 176 (PTO Bd. App. 1969). Comprising leaves the claim open for inclusion of unspecified ingredients even in major amounts. *Ex parte Davis et al.*, 80 USPQ 448 (PTO Bd. App. 1948).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

Art Unit: 1616

4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

1. Claim(s) 1, 5-11, 34 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Higgins, III (US Patent 6,147,236) and Higashidate et al. (J. of Chromatography, 515 (1990), 295-303). These references teach sterol esters and methyl esters of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), which embrace instantly claimed invention. See the entire documents especially lines 9-67, col. 2; cols. 3 and 4; lines 1-20, col. 5 in US '236; see abstract and first Para on page 295, Table 1 and last two paragraphs on page 302 in Higashidate reference.

Instant claims differ from the reference in claiming nutritional supplement of specific sterol esters prepared by unsaturated fatty acid esters selected from EPA, DHA and Stearidonic acid (SA) whereas prior art US '236 teaches sterol esters with unsaturated fatty acids, examples given is same as one of the instantly claimed sterol ester i.e. sterol with DHA, sitosterol docosahexaenoate and sitostanol docosahexaenoate, see lines 13 and 14 in col. 5. Higashidate teaches DHA and EPA from fish oils and prevent diseases such as arteriosclerosis and myocardial infarction by lowering the concentration of lipids and cholesterol in blood. It discloses that fish oil is a rich source of such fatty acids. Stearidonic acid (SA) is also found in fish oil.

It would have obvious to one skill in the art to prepare additional beneficial nutritional supplement using sterols with a pendent ester functionality which when hydrolyzed provides another cholesterol-lowering agent. Since Higgins teaches such sterol esters and Higashidate teaches that fish oil contains omega-3 fatty acids (a class of PUFA) which includes docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosahexaenoic acid (EPA), one would find ample motivation to prepare sterol esters with unsaturated fatty acids from active compounds present in fish oil (known to be used as nutritional supplement to loer the cholesterol and triglyceride levels) or using unsaturated fatty acids from any other source for use as nutritional supplement.

2. Claim(s) 1, 5-11, 34 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over combined teachings of Mitchell (US 4,588,717) and Gregory J. Mishkel et al. (Bailliere's Clinical

Art Unit: 1616

Haematology, Vol. 3, No. 3, July 1990, pp 625-649) and Kamarei et al. (US 4879,312). See the entire documents.

Mitchell (US Patent 4,588,717) teaches vitamin supplements containing phytosterol esters such as fatty acid esters of sterol, stigmasterol and taxasterol, in various combinations, a composition of the phytosterols, such as sitosterol, stigmasterol, taraxasterol etc. reacted with polyunsaturated fatty acids such as linoleic acid, (18-carbons, two double bonds), linolenic acid (18-carbons, 3-double bonds), arachidonic acid (20-carbons, two double bonds). Fatty acid may have about 18-20 in addition to two carbon atoms of terminal carboxyl and methyl groups (lines 2-15, col. 6) and at least two double bonds such as arachidonic acid, linoleic acid and linolenic acids are used to make phytosterol esters, (see lines 21-58, col. 3; lines 43-65, col. 5; equation 1 and lines 1-11 in col. 8). Furthermore, it teaches that the reaction between any given phytosterol and any given fatty acid is essentially the same, and is characterized in equation 1 using sitosterol and linoleic acid as an exemplary fatty acid.

Mishkel et al. teaches that fish oil containing omega-3 fatty acids lower the serum and cholesterol levels, and their beneficial effect on preventing and treating cardiovascular disease. See 1st Para on page 626, third paragraph on page 629, second Para on page 628. Specific use of DHA and EPA as dietary supplement are disclosed on section "Angina" on page 634.

Kamarei et al. teach that a diet rich in omega-3-fatty acids has beneficial effects in humans, including a reduction in plasma cholesterol and triglyceride levels, improved fat tolerance, prolonged bleeding time reduce platelet counts and decreased platelet adhesiveness. The omega-3-fatty acids are obtained mainly from dietary seafood. It teach n-3 Poly unsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) participation and reasons why these materials may be involved in alleviating ischemic heart diseases. Furthermore, it also teaches that one of n-3 PUFA i.e. eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and DHA reduces triglyceride and very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) serum levels and reduces whole blood viscosity. (See lines 39-59, col. 2; lines 13-54, col. 3; Table 1 and 2 in col. 4).

Art Unit: 1616

Instant claims differ from the reference in claiming nutritional supplement of phytosterol ester with specific fatty acids i.e. docosahexaenoic acid, stearidonic acid and eicosahexaenoic acid where US '717 teaches phytosterol ester with fatty acids especially containing poly unsaturated fatty acid approximately 2-22 carbon atoms. See examples 51-75 in col. 6, equation 2 in cols 15, 16, 17 and 18. Mishkel et al. teaches that polyunsaturated fatty acids from fish oil is used to preventing and treating cardiovascular disease. Furthermore, it teaches two major biologically active fish oil compounds, EPA and DHA.

Note, that Kamarie that n-3 PUFA i.e. eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and DHA reduces triglyceride and very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) serum levels and reduces whole blood viscosity. (See lines 39-59, col. 2; lines 13-54, col. 3 and Table 1 and 2 in col. 4).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to prepare additional beneficial nutritional supplement using sterols with a pendent ester functionality which when hydrolyzed provides another cholesterol-lowering agent. Since Mishkel teaches that fish oil contains omega-3 fatty acids (a class of PUFA) which includes docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosahexaenoic acid (EPA), see especially last para on page 625 of Mishkel reference). There has been ample motivation provided by the prior art to prepare the instant invention.

Conclusion

Since US' 236 teaches food grade sitosterol docosahexaenoate and sitostanol docosahexaenoate and other references cited above teach DHA , EPA and fish oil containing n-3 PUFA i.e. eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and DHA reduces triglyceride and very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) serum levels and reduces whole blood viscosity, instant invention is considered obvious for the reasons cited above.


In the light of the forgoing discussion, the Examiner's ultimate legal conclusion is that the subject matter defined by the instant claims would have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Art Unit: 1616

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sabiha Naim Qazi whose telephone number is 703-305-3910. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose Dees can be reached on 703-308-4628. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4556 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

October 25, 2002


SABIHA QAZI, PH.D
PRIMARY EXAMINER